IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A casing for a storage apparatus comprising:

a first receiving portion ~~for receiving~~ sized to receive a disc drive box in which a plurality of disc drives are received in a line, said first receiving portion being approximately equal in height and width to said disc drive box; and

a second receiving portion ~~for receiving~~ sized to alternatively receive either of a disc drive box or a control portion box in which a plurality of control boards for executing a control relating to [[a]] data input and output ~~process~~ processes with respect to said disc ~~drive~~ drives in said disc drive box in said first receiving portion are received in a line, said second receiving portion being approximately equal in height and width to said first receiving portion.

2. (Currently amended) A casing for a storage apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said casing for the storage apparatus is provided with a third receiving portion ~~for receiving~~ sized to receive a power source portion for supplying an electric power to said control ~~board~~ boards and said disc ~~drive~~ drives, and said third receiving portion is provided ~~in a lower portion of~~ below said second receiving portion.

3. (Currently amended) A storage apparatus comprising:

a casing including:

a first receiving portion for receiving a disc drive box in which a plurality of disc drives are received in a line, said first receiving portion being approximately equal in height and width to said disc drive box;

a second receiving portion for receiving a control portion box in which a plurality of control boards for executing a control relating to data input and output processes with respect to said disc drives are received in a line, said second receiving portion being approximately equal in height and width to said first receiving portion; and

a third receiving portion for receiving a power source portion for supplying an electric power to said control boards and said disc drives, and said third receiving portion is provided below said second receiving portion;

~~the casing for the storage as claimed in claim 2;~~

a plurality of said disc drives received in said disc drive box received in said first receiving portion;

a plurality of said control boards received in said control portion box received in said second receiving portion; and

said power source portion received in said third receiving portion.

4. (Currently amended) A storage apparatus comprising:

a plurality of casings, each casing including: ~~for the storage apparatus as claimed in claim 2,~~

a first receiving portion for receiving a disc drive box in which a

plurality of disc drives are received in a line, said first receiving portion being approximately equal in height and width to said disc drive box;

a second receiving portion for receiving a control portion box in which a plurality of control boards for executing a control relating to data input and output processes with respect to said disc drives are received in a line, said second receiving portion being approximately equal in height and width to said first receiving portion; and

a third receiving portion for receiving a power source portion for supplying an electric power to said control boards and said disc drives, and said third receiving portion is provided below said second receiving portion;

wherein in one of said casings for the storage apparatus, said disc drive box, in which a plurality of said disc drives are received, is received in said first receiving portion; said control portion box, in which a plurality of said control boards are received, is received in said second receiving portion; and said power source portion is received in said third receiving portion; and in ~~the other~~ another of said casings for the storage apparatus, said disc drive box, in which a plurality of said disc drives are received is received, in each of said first receiving portion and said second receiving portion; and said power source portion is received in said third receiving portion.

5. (Currently amended) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the electric power to said control ~~board~~ boards and said disc ~~drive~~ drives by said power source portion is a direct current electric power having a uniform rated voltage.

6. (Currently amended) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the electric power to said control ~~board~~ boards and said disc ~~drive~~ drives by said power source portion is a direct current electric power having a uniform rated voltage.

7. (New) A casing for a storage apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an air duct arranged within the first receiving portion, said air duct having an outwardly-flaring lower portion open to the second receiving portion and a substantially straight upper portion open at an end thereof opposite said outwardly-flaring lower portion.

8. (New) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising an air duct arranged within the first receiving portion, said air duct having an outwardly-flaring lower portion open to the second receiving portion and a substantially straight upper portion open at an end thereof opposite said outwardly-flaring lower portion.

9. (New) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising an air duct arranged within the first receiving portion, said air duct having an outwardly-flaring lower portion open to the second receiving portion and a substantially straight upper portion open at an end thereof opposite said outwardly-flaring lower portion.

10. (New) A casing for a storage apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an air duct arranged within the first receiving portion to define an inner air flow path within the air duct and an outer air flow path outside the air duct and within the first receiving portion, said air duct having an outwardly-flaring lower portion open to the second receiving portion and a substantially straight upper portion open at an end thereof opposite said outwardly-flaring lower portion;

wherein said air duct is further arranged within said first receiving portion so that all air flowing from said second receiving portion into said first receiving portion flows into said air duct in said inner flow path substantially without collision or turbulence with air flowing in said outer flow path outside said air duct within said first receiving portion.

11. (New) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

an air duct arranged within the first receiving portion to define an inner air flow path within the air duct and an outer air flow path outside the air duct and within the first receiving portion, said air duct having an outwardly-flaring lower

portion open to the second receiving portion and a substantially straight upper portion open at an end thereof opposite said outwardly-flaring lower portion;

wherein said air duct is further arranged within said first receiving portion so that all air flowing from said second receiving portion into said first receiving portion flows into said air duct in said inner flow path substantially without collision or turbulence with air flowing in said outer flow path outside said air duct within said first receiving portion.

12. (New) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

an air duct arranged within the first receiving portion to define an inner air flow path within the air duct and an outer air flow path outside the air duct and within the first receiving portion, said air duct having an outwardly-flaring lower portion open to the second receiving portion and a substantially straight upper portion open at an end thereof opposite said outwardly-flaring lower portion;

wherein said air duct is further arranged within said first receiving portion so that all air flowing from said second receiving portion into said first receiving portion flows into said air duct in said inner flow path substantially without collision or turbulence with air flowing in said outer flow path outside said air duct within said first receiving portion.

13. (New) A casing for a storage apparatus as claimed in claim 10,

wherein said air duct is further arranged in a central portion within said first receiving portion so as to provide for first and second disc drive boxes on

opposite sides thereof, so that all air flowing from said second receiving portion into said first receiving portion between said first and second disc drive boxes flows into said air duct in said inner flow path substantially without collision or turbulence with air flowing in said outer flow path outside said air duct within said first receiving portion.

14. (New) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 11,

wherein said air duct is further arranged in a central portion within said first receiving portion so as to provide for first and second disc drive boxes on opposite sides thereof, so that all air flowing from said second receiving portion into said first receiving portion between said first and second disc drive boxes flows into said air duct in said inner flow path substantially without collision or turbulence with air flowing in said outer flow path outside said air duct within said first receiving portion.

15. (New) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 12,

wherein said air duct is further arranged in a central portion within said first receiving portion so as to provide for first and second disc drive boxes on opposite sides thereof, so that all air flowing from said second receiving portion into said first receiving portion between said first and second disc drive boxes flows into said air duct in said inner flow path substantially without collision or turbulence with air flowing in said outer flow path outside said air duct within said first receiving portion.

16. (New) A casing for a storage apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said air duct is above said second receiving portion.

17. (New) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said air duct is above said control boards.

18. (New) A storage apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said air duct is above said control boards.